

Application No. 09/739,141
Amendment dated July 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 17-20, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730 to Nagasaki et al ("Nagasaki et al").

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,067,029 to Takahashi ("Takahashi").

Claims 15, 16, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al.

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,893 B1 to Satoh et al ("Satoh et al").

Claims 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-12 and 15-25 are being canceled, without prejudice.

The objection to the specification of the invention is noted in the Office Action. As there is no further mention and reason for the objection, clarification is respectfully requested.

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Claim Amendments

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to incorporate material from the from which they respectively depend. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-12 and 15-25 have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of these claims are moot.

Objections

The Office Action states that claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In reliance on the statement in the Office Action, claims 13 and 14 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Accordingly, is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 26 and 27, which have been added by this amendment, incorporate subject matter found in cancelled claim 5. New claims 26 and 27 depend from and further limit the digital camera recited in allowable claims 13 and 14. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 26 and 27 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.


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This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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